

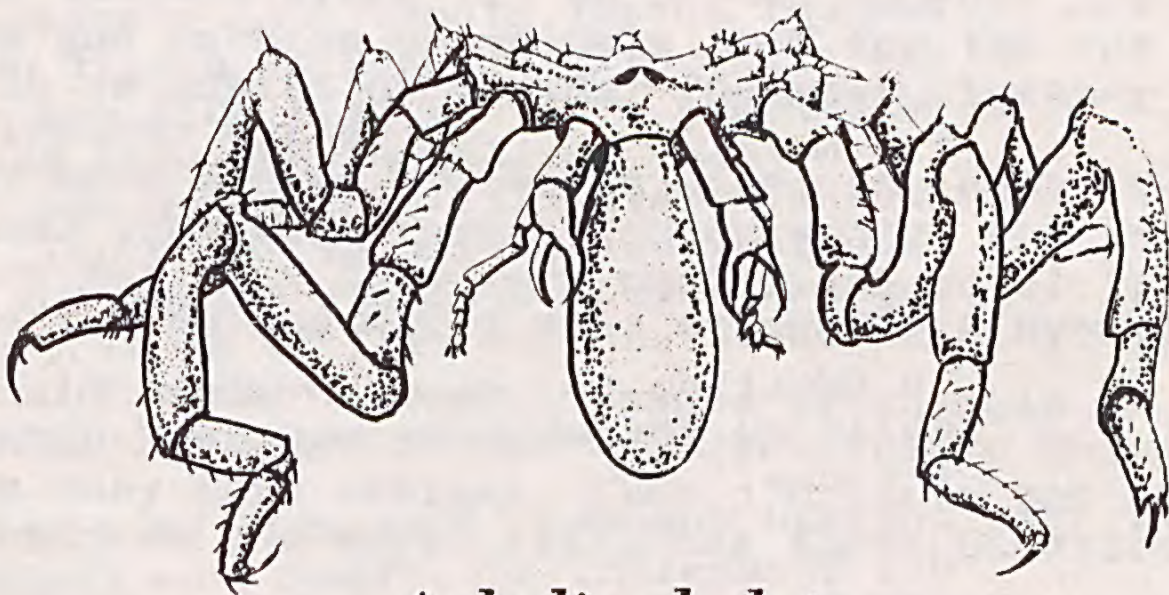
Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

NOVEMBER 1986

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting	November 7	Mr. D. Staples - Pycnogonida
Meeting	December 5	Mr. G. Ambrose - Study Night Non-flowering Plants
Excursion	November 9	Bamgani Forest - Mr. L. Fink
	November 15	Enfield Forest - Mrs. P. Murphy
Excursion	December 7	Barkstead Area

PYCNOGONID



Achelia chelata

President : Miss H BURGESS 312210
Secretary : Mr B DOWLING 432425
Treasurer : Mrs F WILLIAMSON 327631
Editors : Mr G BINNS 332282

Mr L FINK 082 961210

Meetings, as specified, are held in the Art
Building of the School of Mines and Industries,
Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, commencing 7.30pm.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM
CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS,
BALLARAT, AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS.
OR AT 2.00 pm FOR HALF DAY

He developed an interest in the pycnogonida (sea spiders) after collecting a specimen from Western Port Bay in 1970. In 1972 he received a C.S.I.R.O. Science and Industry grant to assist in a study of the septamatics and ecology of the group and in 1979 he was appointed an Honorary Research Associate in Invertebrate Zoology of the Museum of Victoria.

He has published several papers in scientific journals, written "popular" articles for magazines and contributed to text books on the subject.

He has participated in Museum expeditions to the Bass Strait Islands, the Cobourg Peninsular (N.T.), and collected from the waters off Gove(N.T.), New Zealand and Norfolk Island, as well as numerous localities around our south-eastern coastline. Being able to observe, photograph and collect specimens in their natural habitat has afforded David a fascinating insight into the life history of these animals.

NOVEMBER EXCURSIONS

Sunday 9th. Bamgani Forest Block. This excursion was originally planned as a half day outing but will now be a full day event. The morning meeting places will be at Crockers Corner at 9.30 am or the Meredith Post Office at 10.00 am: departure from Crockers Corner for the afternoon session will be at 1.30 pm. In addition to general observations a Koala Survey will be recorded during the day.

Saturday 15th. Enfield Forest. This will be a half day excursion, departing from Crockers Corner at 1.30 pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING

This months meeting will be held at the home of Margaret and Barry Dowling at Learmonth, at 8 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 26. The convoy will depart from 12 Pleasant St. Sth. at 7.30 pm.

At our October meeting John posed a number of questions to challenge our thoughts on some controversial issues relating to the treatment of animals. Some lively discussion resulted, particularly when attitudes on killing of animals in the wild were addressed. Here are some of the questions discussed.--

Just what do we mean by animal welfare?

Is it a phrase we use to cover the existence of National Parks, without management to the detriment of our rarer species?

Do we let foxes and cats breed up in these areas until they are in plague proportions, or do we have selected shooters to rid us of these pests?

Are blood sports something that appeals to people as it gets the adrenalin flowing?

There is ample evidence to suggest some of the banned blood sporting "events" are still carried on in secret.

Should we allow hunting? is culling Kangaroos hunting, or should we just leave nature and starvation to take over. If we object to furs from foxes and rabbits or animals bred for the fur trade, why do we insist on leather footwear, leather bags and leather belts?

Why were Koalas protected first in 1883? Was it because they were rare or endangered? The real reason was that they were cuddly and cute! It was suggested no one would want to cuddle a Hyena!

Should birds be kept in cages or animals in Zoos? Recently Pere David Deer were returned to China, where they were extinct, from a private zoo in England; so the world still has these beautiful animals.

There is a list of animals we kill for food. Is this because they are pests or they are dangerous?

There is no doubt that there are some killed for necessity. What we should rise up against is cruelty. If animals have to be killed the process should be to kill as quickly as possible. Thus steel jawed traps should not be considered at all.

John's thoughts were very challenging and we were pleased to have him for our guest speaker once again.

L.A.F.

Thirteen hundred acres of sheer delight - lush green rolling hills - dams of all shapes and sizes, two huge ones that hundreds of waterbirds take refuge in - cleverly treated creeks that were once badly eroded eyesores, are now picturesquely planted with tamarisks, pampas grass, etc and much to the delight of many members beautiful big and perfect mushrooms for the taking.

Lovely areas of bushland - this is the property of Mr and Mrs Jim Ebery of Newstead. 12 members, Mr and Mrs Ebery, Mr Don Balfour (who was responsible for this excursion), Mr Alan Hartup (well known bird/nature photographer) and Mrs Joan Butler (well known "birdo") spent a magical, relaxing day firstly in a piece of bushland abutting the property; an excellent bird watching area. As we left the cars there were lots of nice little clumps of hibertia, helichrysms, chocolate lillies, tiny Leptorhynchos and in the paddock plenty of Acacia paradoxia.

Red wattlebirds squawked, and then the Rufous Songlark, White Plumed and Yellow Winged Honeyeaters made their presence felt. There was great excitement when Painted Honeyeaters, Mistletoe Birds, Yellow Robins, Rufous Whistler, White-winged Triller and Brown Headed Honeyeaters were found. We had a marvellous view of a nest with Yellow Robin feeding young.

Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, Restless Flycatcher, Blue Wrens, Kookaburras, Magpie, Striated Pardalote, Yellow Rumped Thornbill, Galah, Dusky Wood Swallow, and if you're getting a little bit bored - listen to this - we watched for quite sometime Diamond Firetails building their nest, and a little later several Rainbow Birds were sighted!

My notes mentioned Rabbit, Bulbine Lily, Dianella, Raven, Welcome Swallow, Cut-moth and stingers in that order; then we went back to the cars for our lunch.

From there Mr Ebery led us across the paddock in our cars towards one of the big dams where we saw Whitefaced Heron, Black Duck, and Mountain Duck.

From there we walked through another bush area. Wedge Tailed Eagles had nested high in a tree (may be abandoned). Brown Treecreeper, Fuscus Honeyeater, Grey Thrush, Oriole calls, Red Rumped Parrots and a few small flowers were seen here and there. Then into another bush paddock where thousands of Musk Orchids were in flower, also Waxlips, Pink Fingers, Chocolate Lillies, Pimelea, Stylidiums, Acacia acinacea, Tetratheca, Stackhousia and many others.

A Pallid Cuckoo was heard as we crossed another grassy paddock and by this time our young Harry Buttler of the day - Damien - had notched up four scorpions, 12 large centipedes and a skink, among others.

Next dam sported 2 Swans, Black Cormorant and we stopped to admire the beautiful views across to Cairn Curren, Maldon, Mnt. Tarrengower and Mnt Alexander, to name some.

There were Cuckoo Shrikes and Magpie Larks around here. Some large old Casuarinas and Eucalypts scattered in this paddock completed a glorious picture with Fairy Martins and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos and Lapwings adding interest.

The cars were a very welcome sight after quite a walk, and a "cuppa" also welcome. After profuse thank yous to the Eberys, Mr Hartup and Mrs Butler some of us went back to the Homestead to admire the very lovely garden. A truly delightful day, and if we are good little people we are welcome to come again! Special thanks to Don Balfour for suggesting such a lovely spot.

Mr Balfour has a wealth of knowledge about the mining areas of the district and told many stories on the way out, but unfortunately this was only heard by the folk in my car.

We also stopped a bit short of our destination and viewed an area where a very severe storm stripped huge Eucalypts and did untold devastation - 100 lambs nearby were just never found - an elderly couple were sucked from their car and killed.

This was featured in the Courier a few years back.

Florence Williamson.

Field Reports - October -

- H. Burgess Koala in garden, Moola St. (usually in September.) A female with young just emerged from pouch.
- L. Fink At Cradle Mt. Pencil Pine Lodge 38 Bushy Tailed Possums, 5 Paddymelons, 6 Wallabies, 2 Tiger Cats, and 1 Tas. Devil. (Tasmania)
- H. Hooper 40 Seagulls at Brown Hill.
- F. Harrap Reported use of nesting boxes at Mt. Helen:- Eastern and Grimson Rosellas
- K. Hammond Fan Tailed Cuckoo in Main St.
- B. Dowling At Learmonth, random eggs found on ground - Wild Ducks?
- J. Spicer Black Shouldered Kite in Darling St. Redan

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"The Distribution and Conservation of Vascular Plants in the Murray Valley area, Victoria." by A.C. Beaglehole OAM.

This is the eleventh of the thirteen study areas to be completed by Cliff Beaglehole, listing the distribution of vascular plants throughout the State. The sectors included in this volume span the area from Wangaratta to Kerang and from Euroa to Boort. An excellent detailed map is included. The price is \$4, available from President Helen.

"The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds" by Peter, Pat and Raoul Slater. Rigby. 1986.

The introduction states that "This guide seeks to provide information in the most compact and portable form possible for the 756 birds so far recorded in Australia, Tasmania and sea over the continental shelf." This 11cm X 21cm book certainly fulfils this aim and at the same time contains concise well selected text and excellent illustrations of birds and eggs. The neat publication complements and up-dates Peter Slater's two popular volumes which have proved so valuable to bird observers during the past sixteen years. It is an ideal portable reference for field identification. Price approx. \$30.

G.W.B.

W.V.F.N.C.A. - Maryborough Weekend -

Although the weekend of October 17-19 drew a lot of rain cloud to the Maryborough corner of the ranges, it also attracted a good number of Field Nats. from the Western Victorian Clubs. There was rain aplenty, but the evenings and meal times spent within the cosy confines of the Maryborough shared Clubhouse (on the Timor Rd)and the botanical observations during the excursions made this a memorable weekend.

A rather special and significant event was experienced on the Friday evening. A series of fascinating slides of photographs of orchids and other bush flora and scenes, produced by the late Edgar Pescott in the 1920's, were shown. To complement this, the informal commentary by Dr Jim Willis and Cliff Beauglehole, who were in the audience, was an education in itself! The item for Saturday evening was equally absorbing.

Dr Willis spoke on the natural history of off shore islands - from Rottnest to Green Island - with excellent illustrations from his own photography.

Whilst the birds were very scarce in the wet conditions of the excursions there was much to see on the ground.

The Paddy's Ranges in its second spring after the devastating fires provided a wonderful array of flora. Masses of Caladenia (Hooded in particular), Brown Beards, and Diuris orchids were to be seen amongst the general array of colour.

Additional interest was created by visits to the Aboriginal rock wells in Bull Gully and the Aboriginal rock arrangements, including the 30 metre boomerang shape, at Carisbrook. This proved to be a weekend full of interest and good fellowship with Field Naturalists of the 'Western half'.

G.W.B.

Continued -

Genus Eucalyptus

(Family Myrtaceae)

Stringy bark Group - bark thick, long fibrous strands - hence name "stringybark".

<u>Species</u>	<u>Tree & bark</u>	<u>Adult leaves</u>	<u>Juvenile l.</u>	<u>Buds and fruit</u>
<i>E. Baxteri</i> Brown Stringy-bark	Usually a tree here, but may be a mallee. Bark brown- not as loose as Messmate.	Petiolate, alternate- broad-lanceolate.	Sessile, opposite then alternate, ovate, margin wavy. Very young l. and stems hairy.	Inflorescence axillary, 7 or more flowers. Peduncles stout. Buds pedicels warty. Operculum hemispherical or conical. Fruit sessile or almost so. Hemispherical- rim thick, valves exserted.
<i>E. macrorhynca</i> Red Stringy-bark	Small to med. sized tree- mainly on dry stony ridges. Bark grey outside red-brown inside.	Petiolate, alternate, lanceolate. Veins may be conspicuous. Sl. glossy.	Sessile or almost so, ovate, wavy margin. Early leaves may be hairy.	Inflorescence axillary 7 or more flowers. Peduncles flattened up to 1.5 cm long. Buds pedicellate- operculum pointed (beaked) Fruit pedicellate, globose, disc broad, ascending. Valves 3 exserted. (macrorhynca = large beak)
<i>E. obliqua</i> Messmate Stringybark	Small to very tall forest tree. Very common. Bark rough, usually reddish - very stringy	Petiolate, alternate. Base of leaf meets stem at different points (oblique) broad-lanceolate.	Short petioles Opposite for a few pairs. Broadly ovate but soon become petiolate.	Infl. axillary, 11 or more flowers. Peduncles slender. angular or flattened. Buds pedicellate, club-shaped. Operculum hemispherical with a small point. Fruit pedicellate, barrel shaped. Disc narrow descending, valves enclosed.